GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2505
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2001
TEA PLANTATION IN THE HILLY AREAS ON NORTH EASTERN REGION
PATY RIPPLE KYNDIAH

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the area under tea cultivation in the hilly areas of North Eastern Region and Sikkim;

(b) the quantum of fund sanctioned and the expenditure incurred by the Tea Board during the 9th Five Year Plan, State-wise;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to promote tea plantation in the region, alongwith details of incentives provided to the tea growers;

(d) whether any guidelines have been issued by the Tea Board for the promotion of individual tea growers; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD Y. NAIK)

(a): The total area under tea cultivation in the North Eastern Region is 17215 ha. The area under tea cultivation in Sikkim is 202 ha.

(b): The Budgetary allocation of the Tea Board under Plan Head during the 9th Plan Period so far are as under: -

(Rs. in crores)

1997-98	28.00
1998-99	17.00
1999-2000	17.68
2000-2001	49.00 +

+ Includes Rs. 17.00 crores allocated for the Price Subsidy Scheme.

Around 50% of the allocated budget is spent in the North Eastern Region. State-wiseBreak-up of expenditure in the North Eastern Region during the 9th Plan Period so far are as follows: -

(Rs. in lakhs)

State	1997-98	98-99	99-2000	2000-2001
Assam (including Karbi Anglong and NC Hills)	713.47	848.85	702.05	655.49
Tripura	23.29	154.69	78.81	25.59
Arunachal Pradesh	68.71	32.27	66.06	55.06
Nagaland	7.31	7.89	3.41	19.10
Meghalaya	-	-	4.01	1.07
Manipur	9.08	-	-	7.62
Mizoram	-	9.48	-	9.48

(c): The Tea Board provide incentives to tea growers for the following:-

? Extension of tea area.

? Replanting of old and uneconomical sections.
? Rejuvenation and Consolidation of existing tea area.
? Improvement of the quality through replacement of old and worn out tea machinery.
? Creation of irrigation facilities in the tea gardens
? Extending advisory services to the small growers through Assam Agriculture University.
? R&D support to the big gardens through the TRA.
? Organising Management Training Programmes for the Plantation managers through Indian Institute of Plantation Management.
? Organising study tours for the small farmers from North East to visit small tea gardens in Nilgiris.
? Organising Training programme on modern aspects of tea growing for the small growers through TRA.

Apart from other schemes of the Tea Board, a specific scheme namely, the `Tea Development Scheme for the North Eastern States for the Control of Jhuming` is also being implemented in the North-East.

(d) & (e): A booklet on the Tea Development Plan Schemes being operated by Tea Board during the current plan period, outlining the objective, eligibility norms, mode of operation etc. has been circulated to the Tea Industry. The growers are also apprised of the schemes during seminars/work shops held from time to time. Some of the salient points for availing financial assistance of the Board are as under: -

(1) The Tea Estates should be registered with the Tea Board

(2) For plantation, the areas should be suitable for planting. For this purpose pro-planting soil analysis report is to be obtained.

(3) The big growers (above 10.12 ha.) should be a member of Tea Research Association, Jorhat for advisory support on modern agro technique.

(4) Survey map indicating the area to be planted in to be submitted.

(5) Board`s field offices located in the North East shall undertake pre-approvalinspection to assess the feasibility on receiving application in prescribed form.

(6) For loan assistance for plantation or tea machinery, the applicant company`s financial position is ascertained to assess the repayment capacity.

(7) Nursery grant for raising tea nursery are extended to the nodal agencies of the State Government for supply of improved variety of planting materials for the prospective big and small growers.